

REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 1, 2008, has been received and carefully noted.

The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-2 and 4-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0129844 of Faccin et al. ("Faccin"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

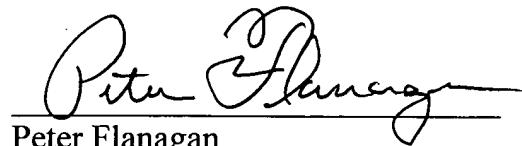
Faccin is not prior art with respect to the present application. Faccin was filed February 23, 2001. The present application properly claims priority of Provisional U.S. Patent Application No. 60/271,143, which was filed February 23, 2001. This fact is admitted by the USPTO on the filing receipt for the present application.

35 U.S.C. 102(e) only permits the USPTO to cite as "prior art" applications (or patents granted on applications) that were filed before the priority date of an application under examination. The same day is not "before" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Thus, Faccin is not prior art with respect to the present application, and the rejection must be withdrawn.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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